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The WOOL SITUATION

August 1957
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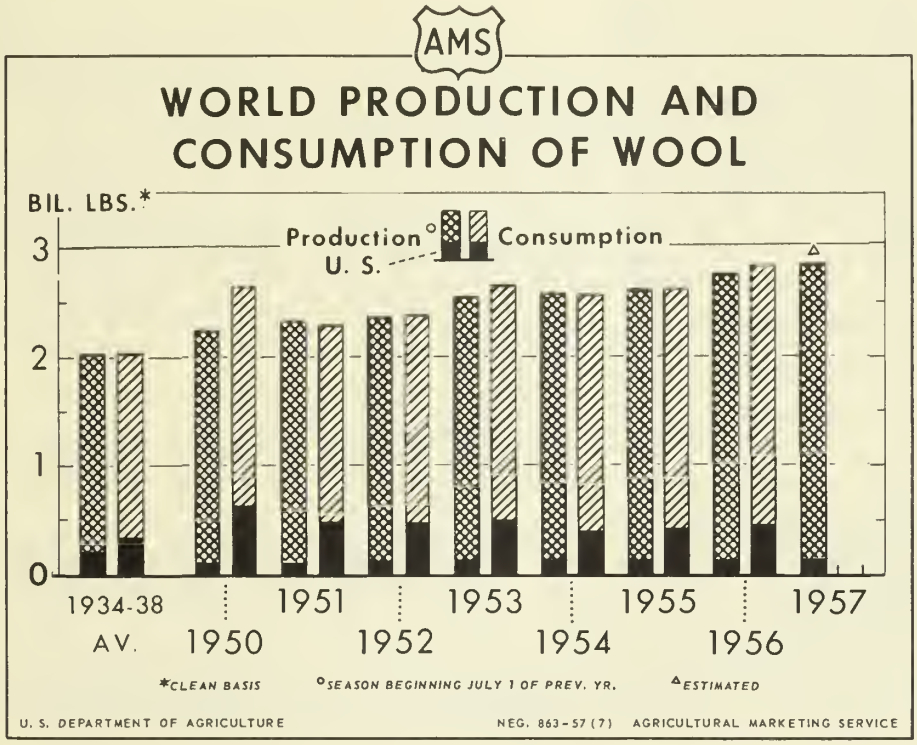

World production of wool (clean basis) during 1956-57 was about 4 percent above that of 1955-56 and about 41 percent above pre-World War II. Production increased each year from 1947-48 through 1956-57. A slight further increase is in prospect for 1957-58.

World consumption of wool during 1956 is estimated to have been 8 percent above 1955 and a record high. The increase last year was the second in succession. Consumption early this year was up from early 1956.

Published quarterly by
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1956 Apr.	1956 May	1956 June	1956 July	1957 Apr.	1957 May	1957 June	1957 July	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	41.2	42.2	42.4	42.3	50.9	55.2	56.4	55.6	131
Parity price	Cents per pound	60.8	61.2	61.2	61.4	65.4	65.4	65.4	65.2	106
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	68	69	69	69	78	84	86	85	
Boston, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	128.0	128.2	129.5	131.2	164.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	128
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.6	154.5	158.5	158.5	159.4	132
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	108.0	108.0	108.5	110.0	132.5	133.7	134.0	134.0	122
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	104.0	104.0	104.0	104.0	122.5	124.5	125.0	126.0	121
Low 1/4 blood	do.	97.5	97.5	99.4	100.0	109.5	111.9	112.5	115.5	116
Common and braid	do.	92.5	92.5	96.6	98.0	101.5	101.5	101.5	101.5	104
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	131.2	130.4	132.9	134.8	163.0	176.5	176.9	177.5	132
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	114.0	114.0	115.9	116.8	141.2	148.1	150.5	151.7	130
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	100.5	103.3	103.9	104.5	118.1	127.0	127.1	127.2	122
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	96.0	99.7	100.1	99.5	112.8	121.4	122.2	122.8	123
Low 1/4 blood	do.	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	108.0	112.5	112.5	116.7	126
Common and braid	do.	87.5	87.5	91.2	92.5	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	103
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	134.5	137.5	141.2	163.8	181.5	185.0	185.0	131
Fine/8 months (1" and over)	do.	117.5	117.5	117.5	121.2	143.8	157.5	160.0	160.0	132
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	112.5	112.5	112.5	116.2	133.8	143.5	145.0	145.0	125
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	137.5	137.5	142.5	146.2	162.5	164.5	167.5	167.5	115
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	132.5	132.5	137.5	141.2	157.5	159.5	162.5	162.5	115
64's combing	do.	127.5	127.5	132.5	136.2	150.0	154.5	157.5	157.5	116
58's, 60's combing	do.	122.5	122.5	127.5	131.2	142.5	144.5	147.5	147.5	112
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	141.5	141.5	141.5	141.5	138
1's (56's)	do.	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5	134.0	134.0	134.0	134.0	136
2's (50's)	do.	95.5	95.5	95.5	95.5	130.0	130.0	130.0	130.0	136
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.0	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	107
4's (44's)	do.	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	107
5's (40's)	do.	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	107
Manmade staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 2/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	29.0	29.0	29.0	3/	91
Acetate, 5 denier 2/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	3/	100
Nylon, 3 denier 4/	do.	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	102
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	104
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	102
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 4/	do.	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	100
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 4/	do.	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 4/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
2/ From Textile Organon.
3/ Not available.
4/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 7, 1957

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SUMMARY

Strong world demand for wool has resulted in substantially higher prices since late 1955 even though supplies have increased. At the close of the 1956-57 British Dominion selling season in late June, prices of most merino wools were 10 to 15 percent higher than a year earlier and 25 to 40 percent higher than in late 1955 when wool prices were at the low of a sharp decline which started in mid-1954. Prices of crossbred wools were 20 to 25 percent higher than a year earlier and 25 to 35 percent higher than in late 1955.

Boston quotations for domestic wools in late July were considerably higher than in late 1955. In this period, quotations for fine and half-blood wools advanced 30 to 45 percent and in July were between 25 and 35 percent higher than a year ago. Quotations for three-eighths blood and coarser wools were up 10 to 30 percent from levels prevailing at the time the advance began in late 1955 and up 5 to 30 percent from a year earlier. Quotations have changed little during the past several weeks, with most prices the same in late July as early in May. During the summer of 1956, prices of domestic wools were low relative to prices of foreign wools. However, in recent months the relationship has been about the same as the average for recent years.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1956 Mar.	1956 Apr.	1956 May	1956 June	1957 Mar.	1957 Apr.	1957 May	1957 June 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	13.4	10.4	13.2	7.4	8.1	7.4	6.6		50
60's and finer	do.	6.7	5.1	7.8	2.7	4.2	3.4	2.3		29
56's - 60's	do.	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.1	.7	1.1	.9		56
50's - 56's	do.	1.7	1.0	1.2	1.2	.8	.8	.8		67
44's - 50's	do.	.7	.4	.4	.4	.2	.3	.2		50
40's - 44's	do.	.4	.6	.5	.3	.5	.3	.4		80
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.5		100
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.2	.2	.3	.4	.4	.5		250
Duty-free	do.	14.7	11.8	9.5	10.3	13.4	10.4	7.5		79
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	5.5	4.3	4.4	4.6	5.3	3.6	3.3		75
Not finer than 40's	do.	9.2	5.5	5.1	5.7	8.1	6.8	4.2		82
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	37.6	48.0	61.2	68.6	26.5	33.8	40.5		66
60's and finer	do.	20.0	25.1	33.0	35.7	15.0	18.5	20.8		63
56's - 60's	do.	5.3	7.1	8.7	9.7	2.8	3.8	4.7		54
50's - 56's	do.	4.0	5.0	6.2	7.4	2.4	3.2	4.0		65
44's - 50's	do.	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.5	.6	.9	1.0		50
40's - 44's	do.	1.4	2.0	2.5	2.8	1.7	2.0	2.4		96
Not finer than 40's	do.	4.8	6.1	7.6	8.9	2.8	3.9	5.4		71
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.7	.9	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.9		173
Duty-free	do.	48.6	60.4	69.9	80.2	39.1	49.5	57.0		82
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	17.6	21.8	26.2	30.8	16.7	20.3	23.6		90
Not finer than 40's	do.	31.0	38.6	43.7	49.4	22.4	29.2	33.4		76
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	20.2	15.2	19.6	10.6	11.7	10.6	9.1		46
Duty-free	do.	20.0	16.0	12.5	13.4	17.9	13.9	10.0		80
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	5,864	6,254	6,141	5,568	5,370	5,032	5,330	5,401	97
60's and finer	do.	3,211	3,293	3,220	2,992	2,759	2,613	2,598	2,714	91
50's up to 60's	do.	2,019	2,238	2,248	2.012	2,018	1,892	2,196	2,217	110
48's and coarser	do.	634	723	673	564	593	527	536	470	83
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,898	3,037	2,863	2,363	3,164	2,872	2,388	2,066	87
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	79.6	104.6	129.2	157.0	70.3	95.4	116.8	138.4	88
60's and finer	do.	43.1	56.3	69.2	84.1	36.5	49.5	60.0	70.8	84
50's up to 60's	do.	27.6	36.6	45.6	55.6	27.4	36.9	45.6	54.5	98
48's and coarser	do.	8.9	11.7	14.4	17.3	6.4	9.0	11.2	13.1	76
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	40.8	52.9	64.4	76.2	40.9	55.3	64.8	73.1	96
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics	do.	79.4			164.5	73.4				92
Government orders	do.	.8			1.3	1.3				162
Men's and boys' wear	do.	39.5			82.3	37.0				94
Women's and children's wear	do.	39.1			80.9	35.1				90
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	3.3			6.1	3.9				118
Blanketing	do.	2.3			4.4	2.3				100
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	1.0			1.7	1.6				160
Total woven fabrics	do.	82.7			170.6	77.3				93

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totsling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Prices of wool were considerably higher compared to prices of manmade fiber in early 1957 than early last year. Prices of some of the non-cellulosic staple fibers increased somewhat in late 1956, but the increases were less than the reductions made in late 1955. The increases also were small relative to the advances in wool prices since late 1955.

Prices received by domestic producers for shorn wool started to rise last September, after more than half of the 1956 clip had been sold. The upward movement extended into the 1957 marketing year. The monthly average of prices received in July was 55.6 cents, up 13.3 cents from a year earlier and up 17.8 cents or 47 percent from January 1956. So far this season, the monthly averages have been between 23 and 33 percent higher than last season.

Growers are now receiving Government payments under the 1956 wool incentive program. Shorn wool payments to producers amount to 40 percent of their dollar returns from the sale of shorn wool during the 1956 marketing year. The payment rate on sales of unshorn lambs to compensate for the wool on them is 71 cents per hundredweight of live animal sold. The 1956 payment rates are somewhat lower than those under the 1955 program. The incentive level, 62 cents, was the same as for 1955, but since the average price received, 44.3 cents per pound, grease basis, was a little higher than in 1955, the rate of payment needed to bring the average return up to the incentive level was smaller.

The 1957 program for shorn wool and unshorn lambs marketed during April 1, 1957-March 31, 1958, is substantially the same as that for 1956. The incentive level is being continued at 62 cents. The rates of payment will be determined in mid-1958 when the average price for wool marketed during the 1957-58 season becomes known.

Supplies of wool in the United States early this year were smaller than in the first part of 1956. Commercial and Government stocks of wool on April 1 amounted to 152 million pounds, scoured basis, including 115 million pounds of apparel wool and 37 million pounds of carpet wool. Both were lower than a year earlier. CCC holdings accounted for a little over one-fifth of total stocks of apparel wool. But almost three-fourths of the wool held by CCC on April 1 was sold during the following 4 months.

CCC disposals during the first 7 months of this year amounted to 22 million pounds, clean. Of this total, about 5 million pounds were for export under barter contracts. Sales during the corresponding months of 1956 amounted to 15 million pounds.

United States imports early this year were considerably below early 1956. Imports of dutiable wool for consumption during January-May were down 20 million pounds, clean, or 34 percent from last year. The decline reflects lower mill consumption and slightly larger CCC sales for domestic use during these months. Imports of duty-free wools for use primarily in the manufacture of floor coverings were down 13 million pounds or 18 percent.

Domestic production of shown wool this year is estimated at 226 million pounds, grease basis, down 3 percent from last year. This is equivalent to around 99 million pounds, clean. Production in the "Native" wool States is estimated at 71 million pounds, grease basis, up 3 percent from last year. The estimate for the 13 Western sheep States is 155 million pounds, down 5 percent from last year. The decline in these States is due largely to a reduction in the number of sheep shorn.

World production of wool during 1956-57 is now estimated at 4,965 million pounds, grease basis. This is almost 5 percent above 1955-56. A slight further increase appears likely for 1957-58.

World consumption of wool during the first quarter of this year is estimated to have been about 5 percent higher than a year earlier. It was higher than during any other quarter since the first quarter of 1950.

But in the United States, mill use of wool early this year was down substantially from early 1956. Use of apparel wool during the first half of the year was down 12 percent. It was only 2 percent above early 1954, when consumption was at a postwar low. June was the sixth month in succession during which the rate of mill use was below a year earlier. However, use of man-made fiber in worsted combing and in the spinning of yarn other than carpet on the woolen system was up 15 percent. Mill use of carpet wool during the first falf of this year was 4 percent below a year earlier. Use of man-made fiber by woolen mills in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn was up 1 percent during the same months and use of other fiber, mostly reused and reprocessed wool, was up 15 percent.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Wool Prices in World Markets Up Substantially from Last Year

When the 1956-57 Australian auction season closed late in June, prices of most merino wools were between 10 and 15 percent above a year earlier (table 1). Prices were between 25 and 40 percent higher than in late 1955, when they were at the low of a sharp decline which started in mid-1954. However, they ranged up to 5 percent below the peak levels reached in May of this year.

Prices of Australian crossbred wools were between 20 and 25 percent higher in June than a year earlier and 25 to 35 percent higher than in late 1955. Declines toward the close of the season ranged up to 7 percent.

At the July series of London auctions, prices declined a little from levels prevailing at the May series (table 2). Closing prices were in line with levels at the closing Australian auctions.

Table 1.- Price per pound of combing wool, clean basis (Bradford yield), at Australian auctions, by Bradford grades, 1954 to date

Year and month	70's		64's		60's		58's		56's		50's	
	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1954												
January	195	174	163	154	141	132	126	---	108	---	93	---
February	190	1o8	159	149	138	127	119	---	102	---	90	---
March	182	164	155	149	135	124	119	---	104	---	88	---
April	180	166	159	155	143	132	129	---	115	---	96	---
May	183	170	162	158	149	138	134	---	122	---	102	---
June	187	174	168	162	156	144	135	---	125	---	104	---
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	162	156	147	140	138	128	125	---	116	---	97	---
October	161	153	144	136	134	123	121	---	114	---	99	---
November	154	142	134	125	120	114	107	---	98	---	88	---
December	158	146	137	131	125	120	113	---	103	---	89	---
1955												
January	154	142	132	127	120	116	110	---	102	---	89	---
February	156	145	135	130	123	117	113	---	104	---	92	---
March	152	143	133	130	123	118	115	---	107	---	94	---
April	143	137	130	127	121	116	114	---	107	---	94	---
May	143	138	130	128	120	116	112	---	104	---	91	---
June	144	138	130	126	120	115	112	---	103	---	91	---
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	128	120	110	106	100	95	93	90	89	85	81	80
October	127	120	110	106	99	95	92	88	86	82	76	75
November	128	120	110	106	98	95	90	87	83	80	75	74
December	129	121	111	110	99	97	92	90	85	84	79	78
1956												
January	130	123	113	111	101	99	95	93	88	87	81	80
February	131	123	115	111	101	100	94	92	87	86	80	79
March	130	122	113	111	101	99	91	88	85	83	78	77
April	135	128	118	115	104	102	95	92	87	85	80	78
May	142	136	127	124	113	109	100	97	90	87	81	79
June	149	143	139	133	124	117	109	104	94	90	82	80
July	147	141	132	127	116	110	103	97	90	87	78	76
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	157	152	144	140	128	125	115	110	101	97	87	84
October	157	150	139	135	124	119	113	108	99	95	88	86
November	163	154	144	139	129	124	115	111	101	98	90	88
December	168	159	149	145	134	129	120	114	108	104	95	92
1957												
January	165	158	149	145	135	130	121	116	110	106	97	94
February	169	163	155	151	141	138	130	124	117	113	102	99
March	167	160	152	148	139	135	128	122	116	112	102	99
April	166	160	155	151	145	140	133	126	119	116	105	102
May	171	165	162	157	152	146	139	133	126	122	111	108
June	172	164	159	150	147	138	132	124	122	113	104	101
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

From Wool Statistical Service, Australian Wool Bureau. Prices converted from pence (Australian) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Currently, Boston market quotations for domestic wools also are up considerably. Quotations for most fine and half-blood wools have advanced 30 to 45 percent above late 1955 and 25 to 35 percent above a year ago (table 3). Quotations for most three-eighths blood and coarser wools are up 10 to 30 percent from levels during late 1955 and up 5 to 30 percent from a year earlier.

During the summer of 1956, prices of domestic wools were low relative to prices of foreign wools. However, in recent months the relationship has been about the same as the average for recent years. It is a little better than average for Texas wools.

Growers' Prices Averaged 44.3 Cents Last Season

Prices received by growers for shorn wool sold during April 1956-March 1957 averaged 44.3 cents per pound, grease basis. The average for the 1955-56 season was 42.8 cents.

The monthly averages changed little during the first five months of the season, when more than half of the clip was sold, ranging between a low of 41.2 cents and a high of 42.4 cents. An upward movement started in September, and the average was 51.4 cents by the end of the season in March.

The season average of prices received in the native sheep States, which account for most of the fleece wool, was 44.0 cents. Of these States, Oklahoma had the lowest average, 34 cents, and Virginia and West Virginia had the highest, 50 cents. The average for the 11 Western States, Texas, and South Dakota, which produce most of the territory wool, was 44.4 cents. Arizona had the lowest average, 40 cents. California had the highest, 48 cents.

1957 Growers' Prices Averaging Much Higher Than Last Year

The upward movement of prices received by growers for shorn wool extended into the 1957 marketing year. The average for July was 55.6 cents, down 0.8 cents from a month earlier but 13.3 cents higher than a year earlier. It was 17.8 cents or 47 percent higher than the average for January 1956. So far this season the monthly averages have been between 23 and 33 percent higher than last season.

1956 Wool Program Payments At 40 Percent of Returns

County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices are now making payments to producers under the 1956 wool incentive program. Shorn wool payments to individual producers amount to 40 percent of their dollar

Table 2.--Price per pound of fleece wools, clean basis (Bradford yield), at the London auctions, by Bradford grades, 1955-57

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1955						
January 14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January 21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7
February 18	155.3	121.7	110.1	93.9	89.3	88.1
February 25	155.6	124.3	110.3	95.2	91.8	90.6
March 25	153.6	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
April 1	149.0	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
May 13	149.2	124.7	110.7	95.6	90.9	89.7
May 20	148.8	124.4	110.4	96.5	91.8	90.7
July 15	141.5	116.0	---	92.8	88.1	87.0
July 22	133.4	113.6	---	91.6	87.0	85.8
September 9	127.6	109.1	98.6	83.5	81.2	78.9
September 22	130.0	109.1	---	84.7	82.4	80.1
October 28	134.0	111.9	97.9	88.6	85.1	82.7
November 4	134.3	112.1	---	89.9	86.4	84.1
December 2	135.4	112.1	---	91.1	88.7	87.6
December 9	135.4	113.2	---	92.2	89.9	88.7
1956						
January 20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.8
January 27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4
March 2	138.0	107.6	---	84.2	81.9	80.7
March 15	138.0	105.2	92.4	83.0	80.7	80.7
April 20	140.4	115.9	99.5	87.8	85.4	85.4
April 27	142.6	115.7	99.4	87.7	85.3	85.3
June 1	151.8	---	101.6	---	---	86.4
June 8	151.9	122.7	101.6	88.8	86.5	86.5
July 13	151.4	128.1	---	88.5	86.2	86.2
July 20	153.7	128.1	---	89.7	87.3	86.2
September 14	165.8	139.1	104.3	97.4	95.1	92.8
September 21	165.8	139.2	---	97.4	95.1	92.8
October 26	156.6	133.4	99.8	91.7	89.3	88.2
October 31	156.5	133.3	99.7	93.9	91.6	90.4
November 30	170.4	139.1	110.1	104.3	100.9	100.9
December 7	169.3	135.7	105.5	97.4	95.1	93.9
1957						
January 18	172.5	138.7	106.0	97.9	95.6	95.6
February 1	174.9	138.8	111.9	99.1	95.6	95.6
February 22	174.9	143.4	121.2	102.6	96.8	95.6
March 1	172.5	139.8	114.2	99.0	94.4	93.2
March 29	171.9	141.7	118.5	103.4	97.6	97.6
April 5	171.8	144.0	120.8	105.7	99.9	99.9
May 17	178.9	156.8	127.8	109.2	102.2	102.2
May 24	174.4	150.0	---	104.6	97.6	97.6
July 5	168.6	140.7	122.1	101.2	95.4	95.4
July 12	171.8	---	127.7	---	---	96.4

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence (United Kingdom) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 3.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 2, 1957 with comparisons

Description	Average 1947-49	1956 week ended Aug. 3	1957 week ended Apr. 5	1957 week ended Aug. 2	Percentage change, week ended Aug. 2 from: Average 1947-49	Aug. 3 1956	Apr. 5 1957
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	132.5	161.5	167.5	+10.4	+26.4	+3.7
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	122.5	151.5	160.0	+16.7	+30.6	+5.6
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	110.0	132.5	134.0	+22.8	+21.8	+1.1
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	104.0	122.5	127.5	+27.5	+22.6	+4.1
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	100.0	109.5	120.0	+33.5	+20.0	+9.6
Common and braid	83.5	98.0	101.5	101.5	+21.6	+3.6	0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	136.5	161.0	177.5	+14.9	+30.0	+10.2
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	117.5	137.5	152.5	+15.9	+29.8	+10.9
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	104.5	116.5	127.5	+23.5	+22.0	+9.4
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	99.0	111.0	124.0	+27.8	+25.3	+11.7
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	92.5	105.0	118.5	+51.1	+28.1	+12.9
Common and braid	73.4	92.5	95.0	95.0	+29.4	+2.7	0
Original bag							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	142.5	162.5	185.0	+22.6	+29.8	+13.8
8 months (1 inch and over)	121.0	122.5	142.5	160.0	+32.2	+30.6	+12.3
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	117.5	132.5	145.0	+30.9	+23.4	+9.4

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

returns from the sale of shorn wool during the 1956 marketing year. The rate of 40 percent is the amount needed to bring the average return per pound up to the incentive level of 62 cents.

The payment rate on sales of unshorn lambs to compensate for the wool on them is 71 cents per hundredweight of live animal sold. The method of making payments on lambs under the 1956 program differs from that used for the 1955 program. Under the 1955 program, the entire payment was made to the owner who sold lambs for slaughter, but under the 1956 program original producers and later breeder or feeder owners share in the payment. Each producer who sold unshorn lambs which he had owned for 30 days or more is eligible for payment. Producers or feeders who bought unshorn lambs and later sold them unshorn or sheared them and sold the wool have their payments adjusted downward by the amount of payment due on the weight of unshorn lambs purchased.

Deductions of 1 cent per pound from shorn wool payments and 5 cents per hundred pounds of liveweight from lamb payments are made for the advertising, promotion and related market development activities on wool and lamb carried on by the American Sheep Producers Council, Inc. The promotion deductions were approved by producers in a referendum in 1955.

The 1956 payment rates are somewhat lower than the 44.9 percent for shorn wool and 77 cents per hundredweight for lambs under the 1955 program. The incentive level was the same as for 1955, but since the average price received was a little higher, the rate of payment needed to bring the average return up to the incentive level was smaller.

Payments under the 1955 program totaled 57.6 million dollars, including promotion deductions of 3.1 million dollars. Shorn wool payments amounted to 50.0 million dollars and lamb payments to 7.6 million dollars.

The 1957 program for marketings of shorn wool and unshorn lambs during April 1, 1957-March 31, 1958 is substantially the same as in 1956. The incentive level is being continued at 62 cents. The rates of payment will be determined in mid-1958 when the average price for wool marketed during the 1957-58 season becomes known. Applications for payments under the 1957 program should be filed with county ASC offices not later than April 30, 1958.

World Production Up 5 Percent in 1956-57; Slight Further Increase in Prospect for 1957-58

The latest Foreign Agricultural Service estimate of world production of wool in 1956-57 is 4,965 million pounds, grease basis (table 4). The revised estimate is almost 5 percent higher than production in 1955-56 and the ninth consecutive increase. This estimate includes the 1956 clips of producing countries in the Northern Hemisphere and the 1956-57 clips of Southern Hemisphere countries. A slight rise in world production is likely in 1957-58.

Table 4.--Production of wool, grease basis, in specified countries and world, 1950-56

Continent and country	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
North America							
Canada	8.2	6.7	7.7	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.1
United States 2/	249.3	254.0	266.9	274.5	279.3	275.7	272.0
Estimated total 3/ 4/ 5/	271.2	272.5	290.0	296.0	330.0	325.0	320.0
Europe							
United Kingdom	89.0	91.8	102.0	105.0	111.0	104.0	108.0
Eire	13.7	14.0	15.4	16.5	17.5	17.4	16.5
France	40.0	48.5	48.5	54.0	56.0	56.1	56.0
Spain	90.0	90.0	93.0	94.0	88.2	79.4	83.8
Portugal	21.2	22.0	22.0	22.5	22.7	22.7	23.0
Italy	35.0	35.5	35.0	33.7	32.8	30.9	30.9
Germany (Western)	15.3	15.4	14.8	12.8	11.9	11.7	10.5
Estimated total 3/ 5/ 6/	464.8	476.3	495.0	510.0	530.0	520.0	530.0
Asia							
Iran	32.6	34.2	36.6	37.5	38.6	43.0	41.9
Iraq	28.7	30.0	32.0	32.5	33.0	33.5	33.5
Syria	13.0	15.0	19.6	20.3	20.5	19.4	20.0
Turkey	67.2	72.9	77.9	81.6	79.7	78.8	76.7
India	50.5	52.0	51.0	72.0	70.0	72.0	72.0
Pakistan	27.8	27.2	30.0	30.0	28.0	29.0	29.5
Estimated total 3/ 5/	362.3	374.8	390.0	440.0	440.0	450.0	460.0
South America							
Argentina	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	365.0	357.0	419.0
Brazil	47.4	51.8	50.7	52.5	55.0	60.0	67.0
Chile	41.9	41.9	44.1	39.7	39.7	46.0	48.0
Peru	19.2	19.6	19.8	20.1	20.3	20.0	20.0
Uruguay	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	198.4	172.0	154.3
Estimated total 3/ 5/	739.5	736.5	730.0	730.0	695.0	670.0	725.0
Africa							
Algeria	19.6	22.8	28.0	29.0	26.0	26.0	26.0
French Morocco	33.1	35.3	36.0	31.5	36.4	36.0	36.0
Tunisia	11.0	12.0	11.0	12.3	11.8	12.0	12.0
Union of South Africa	227.5	240.0	256.8	279.0	281.0	313.0	320.0
Estimated total 3/ 5/	304.6	323.5	345.0	370.0	370.0	400.0	410.0
Oceania							
Australia	1,117.5	1,080.0	1,281.1	1,244.0	1,288.0	1,410.0	1,530.0
New Zealand	390.0	406.7	418.0	426.0	455.0	462.0	475.0
Estimated total 3/ 5/	1,507.6	1,486.8	1,700.0	1,670.0	1,745.0	1,870.0	2,005.0
Estimated world total 5/	4,000.0	4,050.0	4,350.0	4,470.0	4,560.0	4,740.0	4,965.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Weight of shorn and pulled wool as reported by A. M. S. 3/ Includes other countries not shown in table. 4/ Includes U. S. pulled wool production at its greasy shorn equivalent weight. 5/ Rounded to fives of millions. 6/ Excludes U. S. S. R.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service and of Agricultural Estimates Division, A. M. S.

The increased output of wool in 1956-57 was due mainly to the much larger Australian clip. Increased clips in Argentina, New Zealand, U.S.S.R., and the Union of South Africa also contributed.

On a clean basis, total world production last year was 41 percent higher than pre-World War II. United States production in 1956-57 was 36 percent below prewar while production in the rest of the world was up 50 percent. The United States produced 10 percent of the world total during the immediate prewar period but accounted for less than 5 percent last year.

1957 Domestic Shorn Wool Production Down 3 Percent

Production of shorn wool this year is estimated at 226 million pounds, grease basis, 3 percent less than in 1956 (table 5). The decline is the result of a 2 percent drop in the number of sheep shorn and a 1 percent lighter average fleece weight. The 2 percent decline in the number of sheep shorn is the same as the reduction in the number of stock sheep on farms last year. Somewhat earlier than usual shearing in many important producing areas this year was a factor in reducing the average fleece weight. The number of sheep shorn is estimated at 26.8 million head, compared with 27.2 million head in 1956. The average fleece weight is 8.44 pounds, compared with 8.52 pounds in 1956.

Production in the 35 "Native" wool States is put at 71 million pounds, 3 percent more than in 1956. The increase over last year reflects the larger number of sheep shorn since the average weight per fleece is 1 percent lighter.

Production in the 13 Western sheep States (11 States in the Western Region, South Dakota, and Texas) is estimated at 155 million pounds, 5 percent less than in 1956. The smaller clip this year is due largely to the drought-forced reduction in breeding flocks in Texas.

1956-57 Exports from Southern Hemisphere Above 1955-56

Total exports of wool from surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere are likely to be larger in 1956-57 than a year earlier (table 6). For the months for which information is available, exports from Australia and New Zealand increased and more than offset declines for Argentina, Union of South Africa, and Uruguay. Larger production is indicated for all of these countries except Uruguay. Smaller carryover from the previous season is a factor in the lower exports from the two South American countries.

U. S. Imports of dutiable Wool Down Substantially from Early 1956

United States imports of dutiable wool for consumption (entries for immediate consumption plus withdrawals from bonded warehouses for consumption) during January-May totaled 40 million pounds, clean content, 34 percent less

Table 5.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, shorn wool production, and price per pound received by farmers, United States, 1940-57

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Shorn wool production	Price per pound 3/
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014	28.4
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520	35.5
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297	40.1
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843	41.6
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4
1950	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1
1951	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1
1952	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1
1953	27,845	8.34	232,258	54.9
1954	27,692	8.52	235,807	53.2
1955	27,383	8.55	234,058	4/42.8
1956	27,229	8.52	232,126	4/44.3
1957	26,793	8.44	226,021	---

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards. 2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb during the year. 3/ Average prices for 1943 and later years are for the marketing season April-March; average prices for earlier years relate to the calendar year. 4/ Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to incentive level of 62 cents per pound.

than during the same months of 1956. The decline is largely a reflection of the lower mill use and slightly larger CCC sales. Imports have been below a year earlier in each month since June 1956.

Percentagewise, the decline for 60's and finer wools, 37 percent, was somewhat greater than that for wools coarser than 60's.

Imports of Duty-Free Wools Also Down From 1956

Imports of duty-free wools for consumption during January-May amounted to 57 million pounds, clean content, about 18 percent less than a year earlier. The decline followed increases during each of the two previous years.

Practically all of the decline was in imports of wools not finer than 40's, which dropped from 44 million pounds to 33 million pounds. Imports of "named" wools amounted to 24 million pounds in January-May, compared with 26 million pounds a year earlier.

Stocks of Apparel Wool Lower Than Last Year

The Bureau of the Census reports that stocks of apparel wool in the United States on April 1 amounted to 115 million pounds, scoured basis (table 7). The total includes stocks held on consignment, stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, stocks held in bond, and stocks held by CCC. It excludes wool held by or for the account of growers (except that held on consignment).

Table 6.--Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producint countries, 1953-54, 1954-55 1955-56, and 1956-57 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
Australia 2/	1,002	942	1,057	1,195
New Zealand 3/	267	258	294	312
Union of South Africa 2/	217	234	244	238
Argentina 4/	95	125	163	145
Uruguay 2/	69	52	136	84

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through May.
3/ Through March.
4/ Through April.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 7.- Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1946-57 1/

Year	Held by						Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Manufacturers			Dealers and U. S. Government						
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total		Manufacturers	Dealers and U. S. Government	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average	36,118	3/19,891	3/56,009	40,470	3/12,696	3/53,166	3/109,175	10.7	10.1	20.8
1946	16,998	122,225	139,223	214,925	67,230	282,155	421,378	12.1	24.5	36.6
1947	32,200	111,995	144,195	212,379	47,654	260,033	404,228	12.4	22.4	34.8
1948	52,720	94,633	147,353	163,451	35,648	199,099	346,452	14.1	19.0	33.1
1949	37,945	57,712	95,657	86,504	17,160	103,664	199,321	14.7	15.9	30.6
1950	36,300	54,824	91,124	36,053	16,058	52,111	143,235	10.8	6.2	17.0
1951	28,510	83,360	111,870	7,042	11,292	18,334	130,204	14.7	2.4	17.1
1952	20,848	54,795	75,643	34,836	20,352	55,188	130,831	12.6	9.2	21.8
1953	30,643	49,822	80,465	68,158	14,477	82,635	163,100	10.9	11.1	22.0
1954	24,323	34,144	58,467	80,103	11,126	91,229	149,696	12.1	18.9	31.0
1955	27,442	32,686	60,128	87,561	11,982	99,543	159,671	11.0	18.3	29.3
1956	28,923	29,697	58,620	76,372	10,674	87,046	145,666	9.6	14.2	23.8
1957 4/	35,485	28,134	63,619	44,694	6,847	51,541	115,160	11.8	9.5	21.3

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports range from March 26 to April 4. Includes stocks held on consignment, stocks held in bond, and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense (1951 and 1952) and wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers. 2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption. 3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat. 4/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.

The quantity held on April 1, about 30 million pounds or 21 percent lower than that of a year earlier, was the smallest since 1941. It was equivalent to about 21 weeks of consumption at the January-March rate, about 3 weeks less than a year earlier. Holdings other than CCC represented consumption of around 17 weeks, about 3 weeks more than a year earlier.

Holdings of foreign wools, 35 million pounds, were down about 5 million pounds or 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of domestic wool, 80 million pounds, were down 25 million pounds or 24 percent, below those early in 1956.

The Commodity Credit Corporation held 25 million pounds on April 1, 33 million less than a year earlier. Dealers held about 26 million pounds, 23 percent of the total and 10 percent less than in early 1956. Domestic wool accounted for 74 percent of their total holdings. Manufacturers' holdings amounted to 64 million pounds, or 55 percent of the total and about 9 percent more than a year earlier. About 56 percent of their stocks consisted of domestic wool.

About 10 million pounds or 29 percent of total holdings of foreign wool were held in bond. Although information on inbond holdings was not collected last year, the relationship between general imports (adjusted for re-exports) and imports for consumption indicates a reduction of about 4 million pounds in inbond holdings between April 1, 1956 and April 1, 1957.

CCC Holdings of Wool Down to 21 Million Pounds

As of the end of July, CCC holdings of wool acquired under the 1952-54 price support programs amounted to 21 million pounds, actual weight, or approximately 9 million pounds, clean. When the competitive bid selling program went into effect on November 1, 1955, CCC holdings totaled 149 million pounds, actual weight, or roughtly 68 million pounds, clean.

CCC disposals during the first 7 months of this year amounted to 48 million pounds, actual weight, or 22 million pounds, clean. Of these totals, 11 million pounds, actual weight, or about 5 million pounds, clean, were for export under barter contracts. Sales during the corresponding months of 1956 amounted to 32.5 million pounds, actual weight, or 15 million pounds, clean.

April Stocks of Carpet Wool Down From Year Earlier

The Bureau of the Census reports that dealers and spinners in the United States on April 1 held 37 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool (table 8). The quantity held was about 9 million pounds less than a year earlier but about 4 million pounds larger than on January 1. Of total holdings at the end of the first quarter 6 million pounds were in-bond, a reduction of about 1 million pounds from a year earlier.

Table 8.- Commercial stocks of carpet wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1946-57 1/

Year	Held by		Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Dealers	Manufacturers		Dealers	Manufacturers	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average 3/	3,249	28,642	31,891	1.7	15.2	16.9
1946	7,918	62,216	70,134	3.4	26.6	30.0
1947	12,297	81,207	93,504	3.9	25.7	29.6
1948	14,727	68,001	82,728	3.7	17.1	20.8
1949	12,560	49,432	61,992	3.2	12.5	15.7
1950	5,298	49,207	54,505	1.3	12.4	13.7
1951	4,442	40,542	44,984	1.3	12.0	13.3
1952	6,214	27,824	34,038	2.6	11.7	14.3
1953	8,596	33,306	41,902	2.8	10.7	13.5
1954	4,578	27,399	31,977	1.9	11.1	13.0
1955	2,740	26,430	29,170	1.1	10.4	11.5
1956	7,576	37,932	45,508	2.4	12.1	14.5
1957 4/	6,627	30,086	36,713	2.1	9.6	11.7

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Includes stocks held on consignment and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation.

2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption.

3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat.

4/ Preliminary.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Both spinners' and dealers' holdings on April 1 were lower than a year earlier. The ratio of stocks to the rate of consumption was down 19 percent from a year earlier.

World Wool Consumption Up During First Quarter 1957

Consumption of wool, in the 11 countries which report to the Commonwealth Economic Committee, rose 5 percent during the first quarter of 1957 above a year earlier. It was higher than during any other quarter since the first quarter of 1950. Mill use was up from a year earlier in all of these countries except the United States and Canada. The greatest proportionate increase was in Japan where consumption was up 34 percent.

Use of other materials by wool textile industries in the 11 reporting countries was up 2 percent. Changes from a year earlier ranged from an increase of 26 percent in Belgium to a decline of 10 percent in Sweden.

Domestic Mill Use of Apparel Wool Down Substantially from 1956

Domestic woolen and worsted mills used 139 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool during January-June of this year. Use was 12 percent below a year earlier and 2 percent above early 1954 when consumption was at a postwar low. But the average weekly rate of consumption during June the latest month for which information is available, was only 3 percent below a year earlier (table 10). The rate in June was down from a year earlier for the sixth consecutive month.

Table 9.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1949-57

Item	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,175	2,238	2,330	2,357	2,553	2,568	2,619	2,745	2,848
Consumption	2,432	2,640	2,291	2,372	2,657	2,557	2,620	2,830	

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year.

2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 10.--Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-57

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,279	5,673	5,390	5,586	5,751	5,282	5,046	5,721	5,066	5,621	5,570	5,098
Carpet	2,546	2,540	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	1,655	2,629	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775
Total	7,825	8,213	7,931	8,141	8,336	7,533	6,701	8,350	7,716	8,597	8,463	7,873
1956												
Apparel	6,169	6,404	5,864	6,254	6,141	5,568	5,212	5,964	5,110	5,919	4,994	5,174
Carpet	3,213	3,362	2,898	3,037	2,863	2,363	1,787	3,044	2,685	3,206	2,309	2,682
Total	9,382	9,766	8,762	9,291	9,004	7,931	6,999	9,008	7,795	9,125	7,303	7,856
1957												
Apparel	5,306	5,569	5,370	5,032	5,330	5,401						
Carpet	2,973	3,344	3,164	2,872	2,388	2,066						
Total	8,279	8,913	8,534	7,904	7,718	7,467						

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Consumption of other animal fiber and reprocessed and reused wool by woolen and worsted mills was down 12 percent, the same as for raw wool. Use of man-made fiber rose by about 15 percent. The net result was a decline of 9 percent in total fiber use by the wool textile industry.

Activity on the worsted system declined more than that on the woolen. Early in 1956, activity on both systems was up from a year earlier, with the worsted system more active than the woolen. Consumption of fiber on the worsted system (top and noil combed) early this year was down 13 percent, with use of wool down 14 percent and man-made fiber up 10 percent. Wool accounted for about 88 percent of the total (table 11). Total use of fiber on the woolen system declined 7 percent, with wool down 9 percent and man-made fiber up 16 percent (table 12).

By grades, the decline in wool consumption was 16 percent for 60's and finer, with use on the woolen system down 13 percent and use on the worsted system down 18 percent; 2 percent for 50's up to 60's with all of the decline on the woolen system; and 23 percent for 48's and coarser, with use on the woolen and worsted systems down about the same (table 14).

Wool 60's and finer accounted for 51 percent of the total quantity of wool used by the two systems in the first half of 1957. The proportion was about 3 percent less than a year earlier. This decline followed increases in each of the three previous years. The 60's and finer proportion of the total used on the worsted system was 68 percent compared with 71 percent last year. The proportion on the woolen system was 34 percent compared with 35 percent last year.

Mill Use of Carpet Wool Down a Little From 1956

Use of wool in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn by domestic woolen mills amounted to 73 million pounds, scoured basis, during the first half of 1957. Consumption during this period was 4 percent below a year earlier. The average was below a year earlier during 7 of the last 8 months for which information is available, and in June was 13 percent below June 1956 (table 10). The rate of use of man-made fiber by woolen mills in spinning carpet and rug yarn during January-June was about 1 percent above a year earlier. Use of other fiber, mostly reused and reprocessed wool, was up 15 percent.

In the first half of 1957, about 72 percent of the fiber used in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn by woolen mills consisted of raw wool; 74 percent was used in the like period last year (table 15). Man-made fiber accounted for 16 percent and other fiber for the remaining 12 percent.

The Carpet Institute, Inc., estimates that 64 million square yards of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs were produced last year (table 16). This was an increase of about 3 million yards or 6 percent over 1955. But production during the first 6 months of this year was 3 percent below last year.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed on the worsted system, United States, by months, 1951-57 1/

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1951	84.7	86.0	84.4	88.1	87.8	87.2	85.4	86.2	86.9	84.8	82.5	83.2	85.8
1952	85.5	84.4	82.5	85.4	85.6	86.7	89.6	87.6	88.2	87.6	86.5	84.8	86.4
1953	86.2	85.3	89.2	88.7	89.3	87.9	91.2	89.9	90.8	89.2	86.2	88.6	88.6
1954	86.7	87.9	86.7	87.8	88.1	88.4	89.7	88.5	87.8	83.5	86.0	88.1	88.5
1955	87.4	88.1	88.4	86.9	85.1	86.5	87.8	86.8	87.4	88.6	89.9	88.7	87.6
1956	88.9	88.5	88.4	88.1	87.8	89.5	89.6	88.4	90.3	89.8	89.6	89.0	89.0
1957	89.5	89.0	86.0	86.7	86.3	86.8							
Manmade fiber 2/ 3/													
1951	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.3	3.2
1952	3.3	3.4	4.3	3.3	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9
1953	8.6	8.3	7.3	7.2	6.0	6.5	4.6	5.8	5.5	5.9	6.6	4.3	6.5
1954	6.2	6.0	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	4.9	5.0	6.6	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4
1955	6.3	5.4	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.5	6.8	5.8	4.8	6.3	6.3
1956	6.5	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.1	4.6	5.4	5.4	6.1	6.3	6.2	5.8
1957	5.9	6.5	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2							
Other fiber 2/													
1951	10.9	10.1	11.9	8.8	8.8	9.8	11.7	11.6	10.8	12.9	15.0	13.5	11.0
1952	11.2	12.2	13.2	11.3	12.0	10.4	7.9	9.5	9.7	10.0	10.7	12.2	10.7
1953	5.2	6.4	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.6	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.9	7.2	7.1	4.9
1954	7.1	6.1	6.8	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.4	6.5	5.6	10.4	8.4	6.5	6.1
1955	6.3	6.5	5.6	6.7	8.1	6.8	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.0	6.1
1956	4.6	5.5	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.4	5.8	6.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.2
1957	4.6	4.5	5.7	5.1	5.8	5.0							

1/ Consumption on the worsted system is taken as the sum of top and noil combed.

2/ Prior to January 1953, man-made fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber."

3/ Does not include top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12- Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1951-57

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep:													
1951	35.3	36.7	39.6	41.7	42.0	42.0	46.5	45.5	45.9	47.1	45.1	45.2	42.5
1952	43.4	42.2	42.3	41.6	42.0	41.2	41.9	43.4	42.7	43.8	44.2	43.8	42.7
1953	43.6	46.1	45.3	47.9	45.1	44.0	42.3	45.6	47.4	46.8	46.7	45.8	44.7
1954	45.4	42.8	43.4	43.2	43.2	42.3	41.0	41.8	43.6	43.2	44.0	42.9	43.0
1955	41.9	42.0	41.4	41.1	41.9	40.2	40.3	39.2	39 3	38.2	39.8	40.1	40.4
1956	39.8	39.1	40.0	40.4	38.9	40.2	39.4	39.0	38.9	39.1	40.4	40.5	39.6
1957	40.2	40.2	40.4	39.0	37.5	37.6							
Other wool, reprocessed wool, and reused wool 1/:													
1951	48.3	45.5	42.8	44.3	42.5	43.5	40.3	40.8	41.6	41.2	43.1	42.4	43.2
1952	43.8	43.6	42.0	42.6	42.4	45.7	46.2	42.6	43.0	42.2	41.5	41.9	43.2
1953	43.1	40.6	40.1	37.0	41.2	42.2	44.6	40.1	38.4	38.5	36.6	40.2	41.3
1954	40.6	41.6	41.0	41.0	42.5	44.7	45.5	42.5	41.1	41.5	40.4	43.2	42.2
1955	43.4	42.0	41.3	42.4	41.1	43.1	42.9	41.9	42.5	44.3	42.0	43.6	42.5
1956	43.7	43.2	42.7	42.0	42.8	41.0	42.9	42.2	41.2	40.9	38.7	41.3	41.9
1957	39.9	39.5	39.3	40.1	40.4	41.0							
Manmade fiber 2/													
1951	7.0	8.3	7.6	6.1	7.2	6.6	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.2	4.4	6.0
1952	4.3	4.9	6.6	6.0	6.2	4.9	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.1
1953	8.7	8.2	8.9	9.4	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.8	8.3	8.6	9.6	7.2	8.5
1954	8.0	10.1	10.5	11.0	9.9	9.3	9.7	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.4	10.2	10.4
1955	11.1	12.6	13.7	12.8	13.2	12.9	13.1	14.5	14.1	13.0	13.8	11.8	13.1
1956	11.9	12.7	12.8	13.2	13.9	14.0	13.4	14.2	15.1	15.2	15.8	13.6	13.8
1957	15.0	15.1	15.6	16.4	17.7	16.7							
Other fiber 2/													
1951	9.4	9.5	10.0	7.9	8.3	7.9	7.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	8.0	8.3
1952	8.5	9.3	9.1	9.8	9.4	8.2	7.5	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.0
1953	4.6	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	6.1	7.1	6.8	5.5
1954	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.7	4.4
1955	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.0
1956	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.6	4.7
1957	4.9	5.2	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.7							

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, manmade fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber".

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-June 1948-57

Grade	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	63.8	54.2	56.8	58.0	53.6	50.0	52.6	53.1	53.6	50.9
50's and up to 60's	25.5	35.0	33.7	32.4	34.0	36.7	33.3	35.4	35.4	39.5
48's and coarser	10.7	10.8	9.5	9.6	12.4	13.3	14.1	11.5	11.0	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-June 1948-57

System	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	66.2	59.2	67.3	63.9	52.7	58.8	53.8	48.4	50.6	49.4
Woolen	33.8	40.8	32.7	36.1	47.3	41.2	46.2	51.6	49.4	50.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1950-57

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.6
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.9
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.5	72.6	68.5	69.2	70.3	71.9	70.9	70.8	73.1	69.8
1956	73.6	74.0	76.2	71.8	73.7	74.8	71.6	72.4	70.5	71.3	67.1	68.7	72.2
1957	72.0	74.1	71.9	72.8	70.0	68.8							
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	2.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
1956	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.5
1957	1.0	.9	1.1	.9	1.0	1.0							
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	6.8
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.1	8.6	9.8	7.9	6.2	6.3	6.9	6.2	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8
1956	7.1	7.0	6.4	8.3	8.3	6.2	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.9	8.6	9.7	7.9
1957	10.1	8.4	9.5	10.5	8.0	8.6							
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.4	21.7	20.6	20.7	18.5	22.1	19.5	20.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	15.9	19.3
1956	16.9	16.4	14.4	17.0	15.0	16.4	16.2	16.6	18.1	17.3	21.8	19.5	17.2
1957	16.2	15.4	16.7	14.3	18.3	19.1							
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.1
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	.9	1.2
1956	.7	.8	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.2
1957	.7	1.2	.8	1.5	2.7	2.5							

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.--Production of woven carpets and rugs, United States, by months, 1946-57

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
1946	3,678	3,499	4,003	4,552	4,322	4,387	3,734	4,375	4,479	5,611	4,550	4,814	52,004
1947	5,142	4,769	5,340	6,413	5,802	6,272	5,084	5,804	5,929	7,449	6,279	6,962	71,245
1948	6,828	7,136	8,718	7,699	7,486	8,648	4,881	7,285	8,335	7,794	7,102	7,728	89,640
1949	7,200	6,890	8,201	6,443	5,610	5,421	2,776	5,329	6,048	6,092	6,018	6,696	72,724
1950	6,635	6,802	8,073	7,087	6,998	8,129	4,061	7,153	7,689	7,942	8,024	7,148	85,741
1951	7,544	7,297	7,286	6,819	5,411	4,858	1,849	3,633	3,615	4,436	3,976	3,917	60,641
1952	5,252	4,973	5,445	5,861	5,051	3,057	2,512	4,562	5,775	7,254	5,904	6,442	62,088
1953	6,552	6,589	7,227	6,929	5,436	5,388	3,111	5,017	5,447	5,867	4,353	4,921	66,837
1954	4,759	5,076	5,663	5,024	4,264	4,344	2,374	4,565	5,169	5,093	4,101	4,883	55,315
1955	4,894	4,933	5,914	5,346	4,684	5,301	2,742	4,923	5,608	5,601	5,063	5,536	60,545
1956	5,362	5,847	5,968	5,575	5,473	4,886	3,111	5,868	5,817	5,952	5,141	4,967	63,967
1957	5,898	5,477	5,685	5,595	5,763	3,834							

From Carpet Institute, Incorporated.

Manufacturers' shipments of tufted rugs and carpeting in 1956 amounted to 83 million square yards, up almost 6 million square yards or 7 percent from 1955 (table 17). The quantity shipped last year was almost 4 times production in 1951, the first year for which information is available. Wool yarn accounted for about 4 percent of the yarn used in the manufacture of tufted products last year (table 18).

Woolen and Worsted Woven Fabric Production Down From Last Year

United States mills produced about 2.5 million pounds of woven felt and about 77.3 million finished linear yards of other woolen and worsted woven fabric during the first quarter of this year (table 19). These totals are for fabric containing by weight 50 percent or more wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool. Production of woven felt in January-March was 18 percent below a year earlier and 6 percent below the first quarter of 1955. Output of other woolen and worsted fabrics was 7 percent below the like period in 1956 but 3 percent above 1955.

About 95 percent of total woolen and worsted fabric yardage consisted of apparel fabric. The total, 73.4 million yeards, was almost 8 percent below 1956, but except for 1956 it was the largest quantity produced since 1952. Government orders, although up 54 percent from early last year, accounted for less than 2 percent of the apparel total. Fabric for men's and boys' clothing accounted for slightly more than half of the remainder. Production of men's and boys' wear fabric was 6 percent below early 1956, with woolens up 12 percent and worsteds down 19 percent. Output of fabric for women's and children's apparel was down 10 percent, with woolens down 7 percent and worsteds down 28 percent.

The yardage of non-apparel fabric was up 19 percent from early 1956. Of the non-apparel fabrics, blanketing was up 2 percent, transportation upholstery, up 56 percent, and other non-apparel, including draperies and furniture upholstery, up 51 percent.

Mixed Trends in Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing This Year

During January-June, cuttings of both men's regular-weight suits and separate dress and sport trousers were 2 percent above a year earlier (table 20). Cuttings of summer-weight suits were about the same as last year, but 19 percent fewer topcoats and overcoats were cut.

Cuttings of both summer-weight suits and separate trousers from wool fabric were above a year earlier, while cuttings of these garments from other fabric were below a year earlier (table 21).

Table 17.--Production and manufacturers' shipments of tufted rugs and carpeting, United States, 1951-56

Year	Production		
	Scatter rugs, bathmats and sets (rugs 4 ft. x 6 ft. or smaller)	Rugs and carpeting, including roll goods (rugs larger than 4 ft. x 6 ft.)	Total
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
1951	15,070	6,076	21,146
1952	19,146	10,420	29,566
1953 January-June	10,587	6,976	17,563
	Manufacturers' shipments		
1953 July-December	12,224	9,309	21,533
1954	24,891	29,520	54,411
1955	30,477	47,345	77,822
1956	28,949	54,408	83,357

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M 15S, Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.--Yarns consumed in the manufacture of tufted products, United States, 1951-56

Yarn	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Cotton	54.6	74.3	86.3	92.4	86.8	65.1
Rayon and acetate	1.0	2.2	7.9	31.4	73.4	88.4
Wool	.3	.6	.4	3.3	12.3	6.8
Other						12.2
Total	55.9	77.1	94.6	127.1	172.2	172.5

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M 15S, Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.--Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-March 1953-57 1/

Fabric	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Percentage change 1957 from 1956
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	86,152	63,711	75,449	82,709	77,336	-6.5
Apparel	72,735	56,318	69,618	79,379	73,380	-7.6
Government orders	8,192	848	2/	842	1,298	+54.2
Other than Government orders	64,543	68,770	55,977	78,537	72,082	-8.2
Men's and boys'	33,132	3/27,915	3/36,746	3/39,483	3/37,032	-6.2
Woolen	14,506	10,774	18,799	15,736	17,634	+12.1
Worsted	18,626	15,659	16,315	21,088	17,109	-18.9
Women's and children's	31,411	3/28,062	3/32,024	3/39,054	3/35,050	-10.3
Woolen	26,719	21,647	26,111	30,114	28,164	-6.5
Worsted	4,692	4,122	3,512	5,333	3,859	-27.6
Non-apparel	13,417	7,393	5,381	3,330	3,956	+18.8
Blanketing	7,246	4,129	3,201	2,258	2,310	+2.3
Government orders	2,552	2/	192	2/	2/	---
Other than Government orders	4,694	2/	3,009	2/	2/	---
Other non-apparel	6,171	3,264	2,630	1,072	1,646	+53.5
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
Woven felt	2,248	2,599	2,671	3,045	2,501	-17.9

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width. 2/ Not available. 3/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.--Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-June 1955-57

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change in average weekly rate	
	1955 (26 weeks)	1956 (26 weeks)	1957 (25 weeks)	1957 from 1955	1957 from 1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	11,126	11,546	11,245	+5.1	+1.3
Regular-weight	7,995	7,874	7,715	+.4	+1.9
Summer-weight	3,131	3,672	3,530	+17.3	-.1
50 percent or more wool	1,159	1,434	1,477	+32.5	+7.1
Man-made fibers	1,807	1,989	1,870	+7.6	-2.2
Other	165	249	183	+15.9	-24.0
Separate dress and sport trousers	33,300	33,300	32,616	+1.9	+1.9
50 percent or more wool	11,040	10,200	10,608	-.1	+8.2
Other	22,260	23,100	22,008	+2.8	-.9
Overcoats and topcoats	2,337	2,532	1,965	-12.6	-19.3

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.--Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing, by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Summer-weight suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	37.0	39.0	41.8
Man-made fibers	57.7	54.2	53.0
Other	5.3	6.8	5.2
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	33.2	30.6	32.5
Other	66.8	69.4	67.5

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 22.-- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957	Percentage change 1957 from 1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	83,807	83,792	86,135	+2.8
Rayon and acetate	40,529	39,332	41,699	+6.0
Other	43,278	44,460	44,436	-.1
Skirts	40,920	41,592	45,672	+9.8
Rayon and acetate	10,884	7,968	8,016	+.6
Other	30,036	33,624	37,656	+12.0
Suits	8,077	6,763	5,824	-13.9
Rayon and acetate	3,660	2,840	2,372	-16.5
Other	4,417	3,923	3,452	-12.0
Coats	11,065	12,073	12,423	+2.9
Blouses	94,884	76,176	87,840	+15.3
Cotton	66,600	52,452	59,244	+12.9
Other	28,284	23,724	28,596	+20.5

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 23.-- Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	48.4	46.9	48.4
Other	51.6	53.1	51.6
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	26.6	19.2	17.6
Other	73.4	80.8	82.4
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	45.3	42.0	40.7
Other	54.7	58.0	59.3
Blouses	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	70.2	68.9	67.4
Other	29.8	31.1	32.6

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 24.--Consumer personal expenditures for clothing, United States, 1935-39 average, 1946-56

Year	Expenditures for clothing				
	Women's and children's	Men's and boys'	Total	As percentage of-	
				Disposable income	Total expenditure
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Percent	Percent
1935-39 average	3,305	2,158	5,463	8.25	8.59
1946	9,728	5,369	15,097	9.48	10.30
1947	9,963	5,647	15,610	9.24	9.46
1948	10,736	5,714	16,450	8.77	9.26
1949	9,929	5,442	15,371	8.17	8.51
1950	9,655	5,499	15,154	7.35	7.81
1951	10,275	5,811	16,086	7.12	7.72
1952	10,675	5,913	16,588	6.99	7.60
1953	10,603	5,747	16,350	6.53	7.09
1954	10,377	5,740	16,117	6.33	6.81
1955	10,806	6,007	16,813	6.22	6.61
1956	11,466	6,359	17,825	6.21	6.67

Compiled from Survey of Current Business, United States Department of Commerce.

Cuttings of Most Items of Women's Outerwear Above Early Last Year

During January-June, manufacturers of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear produced 3 percent more unit-priced dresses, 10 percent more skirts, 3 percent more coats, 15 percent more blouses, and 4 percent more sweaters than a year earlier (table 22). But production of suits was down 14 percent.

Consumer Expenditures for Clothing Increased in 1956

Consumer personal expenditures for clothing during 1956 amounted to 17.8 billion dollars, an increase of 6 percent over 1955 (table 24). Expenditures for women's and children's wear totaled 11.5 billion dollars and for men's and boys' wear, 6.3 billion dollars.

Expenditures for clothing last year were equivalent to 6.21 percent of disposable income, about the same as in 1955. This was equivalent to 6.67 percent of personal expenditure, compared with 6.61 percent in 1955.

Table 25.- Wool used by the military forces: Clean basis, United States, by quarters, July 1954 to date 1/

Year and quarter	Quantity
	1,000 pounds
1954	
July-September	291
October-December	321
1955	
January-March	424
April-June	3,321
July-September	2,835
October-December	1,932
Total	8,512
1956	
January-March	1,231
April-June	629
July-September	958
October-December	2,078
Total	4,896
1957	
January-March	4,445

1/ This series was discussed in "Deliveries of Wool Textile Products to the Military Forces" in The Wool Situation, August 13, 1956, pp. 30-31.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C .

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The Wool Situation is published four times a year. The next issue is scheduled for release on November 6.